

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document was received.

I. Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 20, 2001 and on April 19, 2002.

However, regarding the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 20, 2001, Applicant notes that the Examiner has failed to initial a reference listed in the non-patent literature section of form PTO-1449.

For the Examiner's convenience, a clean copy of the December 20, 2001 form PTO-1449 is submitted herewith, listing only the reference which was not initialed. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial the reference and submit the initialed form PTO-1449 with the next Office paper.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 4, 6, 15, 16, 19, 20, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that these claims have been

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amended in a non-narrowing manner to more clearly define the invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang (U.S. Patent No. 5,191,611) in view of Bosen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,907,286). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the following bases.

Claim 1 defines a novel combination of elements which form an electronic data management system. Included among the features of this management system is a controller which allows an operator to input update data through an input device when a recording medium and the operator are certified. Applicant submits that the claimed combination, including at least this feature, is neither taught nor suggested by Lang in view of Bosen.

Lang discloses a system which provides secure data retrieval through the use of personal identification codes and personal security keys (see column 4, lines 16-45). An operator is able to enter a personal identification code to a recording medium in the form of a smart card. If the operator is properly authenticated, the system is able to grant predetermined privileges to the operator (see column 4, lines 52-54). For example, the system is able to limit operator access to only a portion of a program or access to only a limited number of programs (see column 4, lines 58-60). Also, the system is capable of limiting the number of times the operator can retrieve data or limiting the operator to a specific time period for retrieving data (see column 12, lines 36-44).

In addition to disclosing the ability to authenticate operators who are retrieving data, Lang also discloses the ability to update recorded material stored in the system and transmit this

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data to the operators. A recording medium such as a Write Once Read Many (WORM) device or the computer's memory can be used to record the update material (see column 12, lines 64-67). The update data can then be transmitted to the operators, wherein the operator's smart card is used to determine the specific information that the operator is permitted to receive (see column 12, line 67 – column 13, line 3).

However, while Lang discloses the ability to authenticate operators who are attempting to retrieve data and the ability to transmit update data to operators, Lang does not teach or suggest a system which requires an operator to be certified before the operator can input update data to the system, as is recited by the claimed invention. That is, while the operator of Lang is certified before being able to retrieve or accept data, the operator of Lang is not the person responsible for inputting the update data. Claim 1 specifically requires that the operator be certified before the operator is allowed to input update data. Lang, however, teaches the certification of only an operator who receives the update data, not the certification of the person who inputs the update data.

In addition, claim 1 requires that the recording medium be certified before the operator can input update data. As discussed above, Lang discloses a smart card which is used to permit an operator to access certain data. There is absolutely no mention, however, of a recording medium which must be certified before an operator can input update data, as is required by claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Bosen fails to cure the deficiencies of Lang. Bosen discloses the use of an encrypted log (column 3, lines 32-33). Bosen, however, fails to teach or

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suggest that an operator be certified before the operator is allowed in input update data and that a recording medium be certified before the operator can input update data.

Therefore, as the combination of Lang and Bosen fail to teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1, Applicant submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection. If the Examiner persists in this rejection, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner particularly point out the passages in the cited art which teach the above discussed features.

Applicant submits that independent claims 16, 19, 27 and 29 are patentable for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1. That is, neither Lang nor Bosen teach or suggest that an operator be certified before the operator is allowed in input update data and that a recording medium be certified before the operator can input update data. Furthermore, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-15, 17, 18, 20-26, 28 and 30 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on their respective base claims and also additionally by virtue of their added limitations.


IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An electronic data management system which comprises a controller for executing a program stored in a memory while being connected to an input device for data input, storage units, and a data reader for reading data stored in a first recording medium, wherein

said storage units comprise a first storage unit which stores an electronic data record file including electronic data, and a second storage unit which stores a log file including log data representing input or update log of the electronic data recorded on said electronic data record file,

said input device inputs electronic data to be recorded on said electronic data record file, and update data to update the recorded electronic data,

said controller executes the program stored in said memory to:

store log of the electronic data input from said input device in the log file;

store the electronic data input from said input device in the electronic data record file;

control said data reader to determine whether said first recording medium being accessed by said data reader is a certified medium or not;

determine whether said system is operated by a certified operator based on externally given information;

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allow the operator to input the update data through said input device to update the electronic data in the electronic data record file when said first recording medium and the operator are certified;

update the electronic data in the electronic data record file in accordance with the update data input by said input device; and

store log of the update data input by the input device in the log file.

4. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein,
said first recording medium stores predetermined encryption keys, and
said system further comprises a medium verification unit which stores predetermined encryption keys, collaborates with said data reader to perform medium verification by [the] challenge-response [with] by using [the] its own encryption key and [the] an encryption key read from said first recording medium, and informs said controller of the verification results.

6. (Amended) The system according to claim 5, wherein said controller decodes the encrypted log of the input electronic data stored in the log file [with] by using a predetermined decode key when said controller certifies said first recording medium and the operator, and
said system further comprises an output device which outputs the log of the input electronic data decoded by said controller.

15. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the electronic data record file stores electronic account data, and

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the electronic data and the update data include information regarding to [dealings] transactions and information for updating the [dealing] transaction information to be recorded on the electronic account.

16. (Amended) An electronic data management system comprising:

data input means for inputting electronic data;

electronic data recording means for recording information input by said data input means;

medium verification means for verifying a detachable recording medium when said recording medium is applied to said medium verification means;

user verification means for determining whether an operator is [a] certified [one or not];

access authorization means for authorizing input of update data for updating the electronic data recorded on said electronic data recording means, when said medium verification means verifies said recording medium and said user verification means verifies the operator;

update data input means for inputting the update data when said access authorization means authorizes input of the update data;

data update means for updating the electronic data stored in said electronic data recording means in accordance with the update data input by said update data input means; and

log management means for recording log of the electronic data input by said data input means and log of the update data input by said update data input means.

19. (Amended) A method of managing electronic data which is applicable to a system comprising an electronic data record file for recording electronic data, and a log file for

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recording log of input or update of the electronic data to be recorded on the electronic data

record file, said method comprising:

inputting the electronic data to be recorded on the electronic data record file;

storing log of the input electronic data in the log file;

recording the input electronic data on the electronic data record file;

discriminating whether a detachable recording medium is certified [one or not] when said recording medium is applied to said system;

discriminating whether a certified operator operates said system or not;

permitting input of update data for updating the electronic data recorded on the electronic data record file when the recording medium and the operator are certified;

inputting the update data after the permission;

updating the electronic data in the electronic data record file in accordance with the input update data; and

storing log of the input update data in the log file.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said permitting [the update data] input of update data outputs the log of the input electronic data stored in the log file, and the update data are input in accordance with the output electronic data.

21. (Amended) The method according to claim 19 further comprising encrypting log of the input electronic data and the update data when storing the log of the input electronic data or the log of the input update data in the log file.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim 21 further comprising decoding the log of the input electronic stored in the log file when the recording medium and the operator are certified, and outputting the decoded log data.

27. (Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a program which causes a computer system comprising an electronic data record file for recording electronic data and a log file for storing log of input or updated electronic data to be recorded on the electronic data record file, said program comprising the steps of:

inputting the electronic data to be recorded on the electronic data record file; storing log of the input electronic data in the log file;

recording the input electronic data on the electronic data record file;

discriminating whether a detachable recording medium is certified [one or not] when said recording medium is applied to said system;

discriminating whether a certified operator operates said system or not;

permitting input of update data for updating the electronic data recorded on the electronic data record file when the recording medium and the operator are certified;

inputting the update data after the permission;

updating the electronic data in the electronic data record file in accordance with the input update data; and

storing log of the input update data in the log file.

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29. (Amended) A program data signal being [embedded] embedded in a carrier wave, which represents a program for causing a computer system comprising an electronic data record file for recording electronic data and a log file for recording input or update log of the electronic data to be recorded on the electronic data record file, said program data signal comprising:

- a segment for inputting the electronic data to be recorded on the electronic data record file;

- a segment for recording log of the input electronic data on the log file;

- a segment for recording the input electronic data on the electronic data record file;

- a segment for discriminating whether a detachable recording medium is certified [one or not] when said recording medium is applied to said computer system;

- a segment for discriminating whether an operator is a certified operator or not;

- a segment for permitting input of update data for updating the electronic data recorded on the electronic data record file when said recording medium and the operator are certified;

- a segment for inputting the update data when the update data input is permitted;

- a segment for updating the electronic data recorded on the electronic data record file in accordance with the input update data; and

- a segment for storing log of the input update data in the log file.